



# ALRID Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

March/April 2001

## LETTER FROM ALRID VICE PRESIDENT NANCY HAYES

As the new Vice President for ALRID and as a new resident of Alabama, I am interested in learning what "the issues" are for interpreters across the state. Are you perfectly satisfied with your working conditions? Do you have problems getting the training you need to meet licensure requirements? Does your employer understand your role as an interpreter? Do you do much free lance interpreting? Would you like to do more?

These are issues I think we can confront as an organization. Write and let me know what your issue is so together we can begin to improve conditions for working interpreters in Alabama! My addresses are: njhayes@mail.bhm.bellsouth.net or 285 Loil Abbot Rd., Hayden, AL 35079. ■

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## A Day with a Police Officer FRANCES SMALLWOOD, IC, TC, RSC, CT

The Huntsville Police Department has offered a community program which allows citizens to ride along with a uniformed officer for a full shift. After several delays, I was finally able to schedule a day to take advantage of this opportunity. On a very cold day in January, I spent an eight-hour shift with Officer Kathy Ingram.

In addition to the practical and technical knowledge gained, I also developed some insight into the police culture. A loose definition of culture would be a shared common language, mores, and values. Understanding this will assist the interpreter as they walk into situations that involve a deaf individual and a police officer. As an outsider, I do not believe it is possible for me to get a good grasp of this culture, but it sure helps to know it exists!

During the shift, I was free to accompany the officer as she investigated a routine alarm call, a domestic call, a trespassing call and a stabbing incident was solved. I was also taken on a tour of parts of town that I did not know existed even though Huntsville is my native home. I went into people's homes and listened as people were questioned. However, I was told to stay in the car as she and three investigators surrounded the home of the stabbing suspect.

In addition, I observed two arrests and a transport to the Municipal Jail. Since Officer Ingram is one of a few female officers, she was called to search the two females that were arrested in connection with the stabbing. Officer Ingram has been on the force for fifteen years and has obviously proven herself, yet I was surprised to hear

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## ALRID BOARD FOR 2000-01

<b>President:</b>	Paula Fredrick
<b>Vice President:</b>	Nancy Hayes
<b>Past President:</b>	Belinda Montgomery
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Mobile RID Pres:	Marge McLaughlin
Shoals RID Pres:	Gail Wells
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## **CHECK IT OUT!**

ALRID 's WebPage

**For information about ALRID, CEUs, contacts for various divisions, and other pertinent and interesting information see the ALRID website: [www.jsu.edu/depart/dss/ALRID](http://www.jsu.edu/depart/dss/ALRID).**



## CONGRATULATIONS to OUR MEMBERS

Members of ALRID wish to express our congratulations to our coworkers, peers, and friends who have recently passed various performance evaluations.

Susan Gordon, Montgomery - CI  
Charlene Crump, Montgomery - CI, CT  
Melvin Walker, Huntsville - NAD V - Master  
Stacie Yarbrough, Huntsville- CT

Congratulations to all of you!

**A Day**, continued from page 1

comments from fellow male officers commenting on her gender. She brushed most of the comments off, but it made me think about the issues of female interpreters walking into a situation.

I found that when I walked into a call as if I belonged there, the officers accepted my presence. However, if I had walked in tentatively or friendly, I am convinced that the officers would have behaved differently towards me.

At one point, I asked the question, "How would this call have been handled if the individuals had been deaf?" The answer was to pull out a pad of paper and a pen. This conversation and other conversations I've had with police officers lead me to some conclusions. These conclusions are my own and do not necessarily represent the thinking of every officer that walks this planet. There is a perception among officers that each person who lives in America should be proficient in English. There appears to be a low level of tolerance for those who do not speak (or write) English well. Fluency in English is expected of all people. Officers want to be in and out on calls and do not want to spend the time dealing with the obstacles that are presented by language barriers.

I must say I had originally walked in with the intent of educating officers in addition to learning from them. However, it just did not seem appropriate for me to try to educate one or two individual officers in 5 or 10 minutes about the language and cultural differences between hearing people and deaf people. Nor did I take it upon myself to explain the code of Alabama 12-21-131, section e, that states that, in particular, "in the event a person who is deaf is arrested and taken into custody for any alleged violation of a criminal law of this state, the arresting officer and his superior shall procure a qualified interpreter in order to properly interrogate such deaf person and to interpret such person's statements. No statement taken from such deaf person before an interpreter is present may be admissible in court."

Requesting an interpreter would take time and would perhaps indicate to other officers that they are not fully capable of handling their job duties. We, as interpreters, know that our presence only facilitates communication and allows for a freer flow of thoughts, concerns and complaints than by writing on a pad of paper which is time consuming and most ineffective. Interpretation provides a quicker, more accurate transaction between deaf individuals and police officers.

We all know of stories where the interpreter is not called until a case is well in progress. In fact, I was informed that police officers (in an unnamed municipality) were recently in need of an interpreter to question witnesses, but since they didn't want to pay they just concluded that the deaf people would have nothing to add to the case and did

not take their statements.

I am convinced that education is going to have to come from the top levels. Police Departments should have in their Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) the procedure for procuring nationally certified interpreters. Officers will only follow the SOP.

Many more observations come to mind, but for the sake of time, I shall close now. I definitely want to participate in another Ride Along, this time on second shift. That's when the action really happens! ■



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## **WORKSHOP REVIEW**

### **The Black Deaf History: Pass It On February 17, 2001, Birmingham**

**By Sharon Prince-Kidd, Interpreter  
Mobile, AL**

The Black Deaf History: Pass It On Workshop was priceless. As an African American female, I realize how important it is to know your history. Although no one can change their history, we are able to learn things that may have been a factor in shaping who we are today.

The workshop gave the participants a chance to list, discuss and inform as a group how we could pass Black Deaf History on. The group sessions allowed Black and White, Deaf and Hearing of different ages to get together to discuss ideas on continuing Black Deaf awareness.

One of the group's participants has a daughter attending a deaf school up north. She was eager to return home to share some of the ideas that were expressed in the workshop. Some ideas on awareness were: continue to have workshops such as this one; be an advocate for Black Deaf in promoting and sponsoring different conferences; inform persons locally in your own hometown of Black Deaf History perhaps during Deaf Awareness week; establish a library of materials of Black Deaf History and set it up at the school where deaf children attend; insist that programs where your black deaf child attends school include Black Deaf History; and make video tapes of older Black Deaf adults of interviews of their past to have for references for the future generations.

I left the workshop, as I'm sure others did also, with a feeling of "let's go out and tell the world that Black Deaf History does exist." We are here to make sure the Black Deaf children know they have a history and a future they can be proud of. ■

## ASK CHARLENE

*This new column answers your questions about the Alabama Interpreters and Transliterator Licensure Law. Send your e-mail inquiries to Charlene Crump at ccrump@rehab.state.al.us. The questions and answers will appear in this column. Since this is the first time for the column, all the questions and answers we have received are given here.*

**Dear Charlene,**

Is it too late to apply for the Educational Interpreter Permit? I did not pass the Code of Ethics test. I want to substitute in the school. I have an Interpreter Permit, but it is expired.

**Answer:**

The Educational Interpreter Permit was only obtainable before October 1, 2000. It was about a six month window of opportunity for those working in the educational system and by law, cannot be offered again.

Only those who applied for an educational permit before October 1, 2000, can continue to renew.

If you want to give me some fore specifics about your case, I'll see if I can brainstorm with you to offer suggestions.

**Dear Charlene,**

I have a question that has come up in our school system. They are talking about using the Hearing Impaired (HI) teachers for interpreters in the mainstream classrooms. Don't they have to get the educational permit to do this or are they grandfathered in because they are certified teachers? I read your article (questions and answers) in the ALRID newsletter and it looks like the time for getting the educational permit is gone and finished. I had just recently been asked if that was going to be offered again and it looks like the answer is no. Right?

Some people are still spreading information that if you have a permit they may add more regulations and then you would not be able to comply and lose your permit. I have told these people that I just cannot see this happening. Permit/licensure is not a demon that is being used to drive all interpreters that are not certified out of a job. I am so surprised that this continues to be a concern. Anyway, can you let me know about the above questions so I will have some answers before the immersion weekend. Thanks for your help and knowledge.

**Answer:**

HI teachers are NOT exempt because they are certified teachers. They should have a permit (or license) if they are interpreting.

Yes, the time for educational permits has passed, it was a one-time opportunity.

As you have stated, permit status is a way for people to keep working in the field, not a mechanism for driving people out.

Thanks for asking and I hope this helps to clear things up.

**Dear Charlene,**

A few of us in the Tuscaloosa area are trying to network and perhaps start a local RID division. We would like to know the requirements for getting ALBIT CEUs on training that we may do. Can you send me ALBIT guidelines or tell me how to get them?

Thanks

**Answer:**

You may earn CEUs for licensure 3 ways...

1) any activity approved for RID CEUs (fairly painless process actually). You are not required to be RID certified nor RID member nor RID CMP/ACET member.

2) any activity approved for Gallaudet CEUs

3) any activity approved for CEUs by ALBIT

If you are asking specifically about ALBIT, then a letter must be sent to the board requisition that CEUs be approved for a training/workshop, etc.

You should include a description of the workshop, dates, times, location, etc. including information (bio) about the speaker(s) as well as number of CEUs requested.

You should also include copies of any brochures, mailouts, (if available) as well as any other supporting documentation that you feel would be pertinent.

It is then submitted to the CEU committee to be approved based on standards previously decided by the board. The workshops must pertain to interpreting, linguistics, deaf culture, or deafness.

**Dear Charlene,**

I have a question about the interpreter law. Is it exempt from religious settings?

Suppose a nonlicensed interpreter receives a payment for her interpreting services in a religious setting such as revival, worship service, luncheon, etc., wouldn't that be a violation? Please advise.

**Answer:**

Interpreting in a religious setting is exempt, even if they receive payment for it. They don't have to have a license/permit.

Now, they couldn't go into the hospital and interpret for someone in their church and then bill for it. That would be community interpreting, which is not exempt from licensure.

But, if it's a religious setting (revival, worship service, luncheon at church, etc.) then they are exempt. ■

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## What's Happening in BAD /ALRID

Monthly General Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 4:15 with workshops from 4:30 to 6:30.

May 10, 2001	Health and Well Being Rhonda Kilgore from Go Naturally
June 14, 2001	Learning to Sign Music Paul Ellis
July 12, 2001	Signs Not Found in a Book Gwynne Fluharty
August 9, 2001	Vocabulary Building Lin Fulton

September, October, and November topics to be announced.

RID /ACET CEUs will be requested. Certificates will be awarded upon completion of a workshop. For more information, please contact: BAD\_ALRID@hotmail.com or Pat Smartt at (205) 222-9690 (cell phone). ■

## CALL FOR INTERPRETERS

Interpreters are needed for Alabama Association of the Deaf 2001 Conference  
June 21-23, 2001  
Holiday Inn Madison Square Mall  
Huntsville, Alabama

**NATIONAL CERTIFICATION AND EXCELLENT VOICING SKILLS ARE REQUIRED!**

Contact Judy Garrett  
6620 Old Madison Pike #306  
Huntsville, AL 35806  
256-830-8322 (home) 256-721-6598 (fax)  
rdsigner@home.com

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# ALABAMA REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001*

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOME TELEPHONE:	WORK TELEPHONE:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	LOCAL DIVISION:	

### PAYMENT

ALRID Membership Dues..... \$ 20.00  
Donation, please specify..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
    ( ) Scholarships..... \_\_\_\_\_  
    ( ) Lending Library... \_\_\_\_\_  
    ( ) Other..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Total..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*ALRID membership dues pay for newsletter subscription, ALRID Policies and Procedures, checkout privileges in ALRID's Lending Library, and an opportunity to have input into state policies affecting interpreting and membership. Your check should be made out to ALRID and will serve as your receipt.*

### Send application and payment to

Lisa Gould, Secretary of ALRID  
1050 Government St.  
Mobile, AL 36604

<i>for office use only</i>	
Date Received _____	Check Number _____

# ALRID Newsletter

**If you are interested in placing an ad with us:** ALRID does not necessarily endorse or support any products or businesses whose advertisements appear in the ALRID Newsletter. The ALRID Board makes the final decision on which ads to publish. RATES:

Full-page ad: \$10.00

Half-page ad: \$ 7.50

Quarter page ad: \$ 5.00

Business card ad: \$ 2.50

Send print-ready ad and appropriate fee to:

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